

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (currently amended) Cutter apparatus for use in cutting sheet material; comprising an upper part (10) and a lower part (11); a blade and holder means (13) extending between the parts and forming the sole connection between parts and provided with a cutting means (15), the upper part (10) comprising a body adapted for manual manipulation, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the lower part (11) and upper part (10) provide surfaces on opposed faces thereof, a gliding surface on the underside the lower part (11) and a sheet guide surface (11a) on the upper side thereof for guiding the sheet between the parts (10 and 11) and for presenting the sheet to the cutting means (13) for cutting.

Claim 2. (currently amended) Cutter apparatus according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the cutting means comprises a blade with a leading cutting edge (15).

Claim 3. (currently amended) Cutter apparatus according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein further tensioning means

is provided in a zone around the blade means (13), at least in front of the blade means (13) in the form of protrusions (17, 18) on either the upper (10) or lower (11) parts of the apparatus.

Claim 4. (currently amended) Cutter apparatus according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the cutting means (13) includes a ploughshare or wedge or other shaped part, which guides the cut edges of the sheet to part and rise and acts to soften the cut edges of the sheet to avoid skin cuts.

Claim 5. (currently amended) Cutter apparatus according to claim 3, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein said tensioning means are further provided to each side of and extending behind the blade means (13).

Claim 6. (currently amended) Cutter apparatus according to claim 3, ~~4, or 5~~ wherein the protrusions (17, 18) are provided one to each side of the blade means (13), and are contoured to guide the paper by means of a curved lead-in surface 23.

Claim 7. (currently amended) Cutter apparatus according to claim 3, wherein any one of claims 3 to 6, characterised in that the protrusions (17, 18) are formed as ridges of rounded profile.

Claim 8. (currently amended) Cutter apparatus according to claim 1, any preceding claim wherein the lower part (11) of the apparatus is provided with notches or channels (19, 20) for cooperating with a rule or straight edge or other template to guide the cutter.

Claim 9. (currently amended) Cutter apparatus according to claim 1, any preceding claim wherein the upper part (10) of the apparatus comprises a plastics shell in the form of an eccentric flattened ovoid.

Claim 10. (currently amended) Cutter apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the upper part (10) has a transparent window ('15) in the front thereof.

Claim 11. (currently amended) Cutter apparatus according to claim 1, any preceding claim wherein the lower part (11) is in the form of a generally horse-shoe shaped shoe.

Claim 12. (currently amended) Cutter apparatus according to claim 1, any preceding claim wherein the blade means (13) comprises a blade and holder combination which presents the cutting edge (15) towards the direction from which paper is presented thereto.

Claim 13. (original) Cutter apparatus for use in cutting sheet material substantially as hereinbefore described, with reference to and as illustrated in the accompanying drawings.